





# The Elder Monthly

THOMAS L. ELDER, *Editor*

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## Editorials

### Pensions and "Muck Rakes."

The new Mexican silver coins are as crude and unattractive in design as any which have yet appeared. The new French types are very pretty, excepting the twenty-five centime nickel, by Patey, which shows some crudity, and is hardly up to the usual standard of this artist. At present we know of no more beautiful modern pieces than those of Holland bearing the latest portrait of Queen Wilhelmina. The tiny ten cent piece is just as exquisite as the guilder. It must gladden the hearts of the Dutch to look upon these splendid coins, and in gazing at such pieces we are reminded of the grossness and stupidity of our own coin types. Are Americans too intent on the

*making* of dollars to consider what kind of dollars they are *making*? Is Congress too busy discussing pensions and "muck-rake stories" to attend to such a mere incidental as our coins? We wonder if a petition signed by the coin collectors and artists would have any effect. We hope President Roosevelt found time to read the "Comment on the Coins of the United States," which appeared in the first issue of the MONTHLY. We sent him a copy.

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### J. N. T. Levick

If the question ever arises as to who is the youngest coin collector in this country, we would beg to be consulted, as we think a thorough canvass of the field will result in an unanimous vote for our friend J. N. T. Levick, of this city. As with the smiling maiden, the question of age is to Mr. Levick a sensitive subject, but it was some time in 1852 that he began to get the interesting little discs together. Known from the early days of his collecting as a numismatist of prominence, he afterwards came into possession of a collection of cards and tokens numbering fully 20,000 specimens—the largest assemblage extant. By hard squeezing Mr. Woodward managed to squeeze the collection into about 3,000 lots and sold them over twenty years ago.

An important point which we wish to make is that numismatics can hold a man in his later years—yes, can enthuse him with the fire of the raw recruit. Mr. Levick may be found at every sale, minutely examining the pieces, making careful pencil notations in his catalogue, buying whenever anything suiting his taste is offered, and pricing his catalogue with the precision of clockwork. We doff our hats to J. N. T. Levick, the "youngest" coin collector in America.

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Dr. B. P. Wright will contribute a fine article on the "Typology of the God Sekhet," for our June number. Several fine illustrations of the queer eat-faced god will add to this scholarly contribution to Egyptology.



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### The Chicago Numismatic Society

At the twenty-seventh regular meeting of the Chicago Numismatic Society, held April 6th, six new members were elected.

Several donations of books and catalogues were acknowledged.

Virgil M. Brand exhibited a medal of the United States Assay medal for 1906, a five mohur gold coin of India, some fine and rare encased postage stamps, and a number of silver mark pennies. Mr. Bryant showed a large collection of Colonial and Continental bills.

The Treasurer's report showed the Society to be financially prosperous.

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### The Ohio Societies

We now learn that there are two distinct Societies in Ohio, the Columbus Numismatic Society and the Ohio State Numismatic Society. Each of these Societies enjoys the distinction of having the same gentlemen for its officers, but R. T. King is president of the former, while Mr. Buck presides over the latter.

At the meeting of the Columbus Society, held April 4th, at the house of President King, G. W. Giebelhouse and Thos. L. Elder were elected to membership. President King read a short paper on "Coin Collecting," and exhibited his entire collection. The next meeting, to which the collectors' wives and sweethearts have been invited, will be held in Delaware, Ohio, with Messrs. Buck and Ziegler as hosts.

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### Special Notice

It has been found impracticable to hold my next Public Auction Sale of Coins, etc., until about June 7th and 8th, owing to the belated receipt of an additional but important collection of American coins, the property of Mrs. A. D. Patterson, and collected by her grandfather, a former director of the Philadelphia Mint. This collection contains many fine and rare pieces, especially patterns, including the rare flying eagle half dollar of 1838, choice cents, half cents and minor coins. This will be positively the largest and finest sale that I have yet held and will contain in the neighborhood of 2,000 lots. As to the unusual collection of mintmarks, I need only to state that there will be forty-five or more varieties of dollars alone. Send early for a catalogue.

THOMAS L. ELDER.

32 East 23d Street, New York City.

## Some Pipes and Obsidian Knives.

Written for the MONTHLY by Warren K. Moorehead, M. A.

Northern pipes may be distinguished, in most cases, from similar objects found in the South. In the North the L-shape and the trumpet or cornucopia forms predominate. Naturally there is a larger percentage of Iroquois pipes than elsewhere in the United States. Fig. 1 presents thirty-three pipes from Mr. H. P. Hamilton's collection—chiefly obtained in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Fig. 1. S. 2-7. Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Oregon Pipes.

The tubular pipes are from Oregon; the others from Wisconsin and the North.

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| No. 1.—Wisconsin. Stone with short platform.                     | No. 15.—Wisconsin. Broken, platform type. |
| No. 2.—Clay. Found on same farm.                                 | No. 16.—Minnesota. Catlinite.             |
| No. 3.—Rare in Wisconsin. Both of these are of the trumpet form. | No. 17.—Oregon. Tube.                     |
| No. 4.—Disk, Catlinite, Wisconsin.                               | No. 18.—Wisconsin.                        |
| No. 5.—Disk, Catlinite, Wisconsin.                               | No. 19.—Wisconsin.                        |
| No. 6.—Minnesota. Catlinite.                                     | No. 20.—Wisconsin.                        |
| No. 7.—Wisconsin. Catlinite.                                     | No. 21.—Wisconsin.                        |
| No. 8.—Wisconsin. Catlinite.                                     | No. 22.—Tube. Oregon.                     |
| No. 9.—Tube. Oregon.   | No. 23.—Michigan.                         |
| No. 10.—Michigan.  | No. 24.—Wisconsin.                        |
| No. 11.—Wisconsin.   | No. 25.—Tube. Oregon.                     |
| No. 12.—Wisconsin.   | No. 26.—Wisconsin.                        |
| No. 13.—Michigan.  | No. 27.—Oregon.                           |
| No. 14.—Wisconsin. Catlinite.                                    | No. 28.—Oregon.                           |
|  | No. 29.—Wisconsin.                        |
|  | No. 30.—Wisconsin.                        |
|  | No. 31.—Wisconsin. Catlinite.             |
|  | No. 32.—Oregon.                           |
|  | No. 33.—Oregon.                           |

In portions of Canada human faced clay pipes are not rare and occur more frequently than representations of animals. Sometimes on the square mounted pipe bowls, there will be a miniature mask at each corner, and occasionally this is reduced to the three conventional masks for eyes and mouth. The trumpet type is modified often by

having a square or many sided top, with small various indentations and crenellations on the rim. Some of these plain cornet pipes have a very large, wide mouthpiece several inches across, and some have a



beautiful gloss, nearly as fine as a polish, and vary in color from light reddish yellow to jet black, and are far more numerous than the whole gamut of ornamented pipes.

Mr. John A. Beck now owns the largest private collection of American pipes in the United States. In fact, I believe only the Smithsonian Institution and the American Museum of Natural History excel Mr. Beck's exhibits.



So much has been said concerning flint and obsidian objects, chipped in the form of curves or sickles or other lunar-shaped forms, that a few words regarding the famous Stockton Curves may not be amiss. Ten of these are shown in Fig. 2, one-half size.



California is very rich in obsidian objects. There are some magnificent blades or swords or unknown forms in the Smithsonian and Harvard collections that exceed twenty inches in length. But these are excessively rare, although there are in existence several hundred obsidian implements more than ten or twelve inches in length.

The curious serrated and curved forms shown in the illustration are found only in two mounds located on Stockton Channel and Walker Slough. Mr. H. C. Meredith, writing of them in *Prehistoric Implements*, p. 261, says: "For a brief history of these remarkable objects and their discovery, the reader is referred to my article in the *American Archaeologist*," Vol. II, p. 319. In that paper I expressed the opinion that the curves were used to scarify the flesh on ceremonial occasions. Aside from the shape and general adaptability of the implements to such service there is little evidence to support the theory. Nevertheless, as yet I have no reason to revise my views. Scientific men, on examining the curves, usually say: "They must have been used in cutting flesh." A California editor, in a foot-note appended to an article of mine on "Art Forms in Obsidian," remarks "that, as a matter of fact, the 'curves' are 'merely artifacts' made of that shape, because that shape is the natural cleavage of the nodular obsidian accessible to these Indians. As they could not depend upon its breaking straight, they worked it as it did break and made their knives thus sickle-shaped." I am sorry to differ from so skilled an archaeologist and so estimable a gentleman as Mr. Lummis, but familiarity with local conditions makes his theory impossible. I have examined superficially or otherwise nearly two hundred mounds and village sites in this vicinity, and although these villagers all drew their obsidian from the same sources, not one of these sites, except the two mentioned, had anything that suggests the "curve." All their chipped implements were perfectly straight. Moreover, the great obsidian beds of Lake and Napa counties, which I have examined several times, could furnish all the Indians of the United States with material for generations. The hills are full of great blocks of obsidian, too heavy for a man to handle, and it breaks as straight as a shingle."

### A Survey of the Coinage of Alexander's Successors.

Written for the MONTHLY by Edward T. Newell, F. R. N. S.

As Alexander by his campaigns changed the history of the ancient world, and by his dominating personality influenced Hellenic art, it would have been very surprising, indeed, if he had not also radically altered the coinage of the known world, both in style and purpose. Hitherto the nearest approach to a uniform coinage had been the general acceptance of a well-known issue of some city or state; such as the darics of Persia or the silver pieces of Athens. But Alexander, in accordance with his hopes and ambitions of making one consolidated empire of Greece and the Eastern World, established a common coinage of gold staters and silver tetradrachms throughout the important cities of Asia and Greece. Where hitherto there had been only the local issues of various cities, beautiful in appearance but of varying standards and types, and therefore impracticable for wide circulation, there now appeared a uniform coinage of standard weight and everywhere acceptable, bringing with it all the advantages and conveniences to commerce such characteristics entail. So great an influence did the mighty personality of Alexander have upon the art of his times, that even the gods were created after his image, a fact which is clearly seen on his coins, for in the face of Hercules we can recognize the features of the great conqueror.

After Alexander's death the coinage of the type that he instituted continued in the large cities of Europe and Western Asia, and his successors for a while kept the same type, merely placing on the reverse their own names for his.

The great impulse of Hellenistic art (by this we mean the style of art that began about 330 B. C. and lasted till the Roman times) toward portraiture pure and simple now begins to show itself on the coins. Lysimachus first openly put the portrait of Alexander, a human being, though already a hero and partly deified, upon the obverse side of his coins—an honor up to this time reserved for the gods alone.

But soon the kings and rulers, as successors of a god and inheritors of his majesty, began to place their own portraits on their money. Demetrius Poliorcetes has the honor of being the first in all the Hellenic world to do so, and Ptolemy, declaring himself king a short while after (305 B. C.), followed his example. Seleucus Nicator also stamped his

own features on his coins and so gives us the first of that wonderful line of portraits of the Syrian kings. During the third century before Christ, therefore, the currency of Asia Minor and Syria consisted of the coins of Alexander's types issued in the various large cities, the series of Lysimachus, of the Ptolemies and of the Seleucids, the latter enjoying a very wide circulation, even as far as the confines of India itself. But from the time of the commencement of the break up of this empire, when there arose the kingdoms of Pergamum, Pontus, Bithynia and Cappadocia, a great variety of types came in again, as before the conquests of Alexander. The general standard, however, remained the same, and the pieces differed only in the monarchs' heads of the obverse, and the various patron divinities of the reverse. The art displayed in these issues is entirely of the Hellenistic style, special care and skill being shown in the execution of the royal bust, while the reverse already shows evident signs of degeneration.

During the first fifty years of the Syrian empire there had been existing and developing in its eastern part a wonderful civilization—the Greco-Bactrian. When Alexander had first conquered this region he began to carry out his dream of Hellenizing and forming into one people all the heterogeneous races of his empire. To accomplish this he collected the natives from all the surrounding country into large cities, and placed therein as a nucleus his Greek officers and veterans, who were only too glad to settle down and rest from their long campaigns. In Bactria the two people soon mixed and the natives gradually became Hellenized; they used the Greek language, became imbued with Greek ideas and grew skilled in Greek art. Bactria itself was a wealthy and wonderfully fertile land, guarded on three sides by vast deserts and on the fourth by the mighty ranges of the Hindu Kush. No wonder then that its people, now thoroughly filled by the Greek spirit, desired liberty, wearied as they were by the exactions of their governors and the neglect of the Syrian monarchs. So it came about that in the year 256 B. C., in the reign of the weak and incompetent Antiochus Theos, a certain Diodotus, governor of Bactria, raised the standard of revolt and founded the Bactrian kingdom. He was enabled to place his new kingdom on a firm foundation by the apathy of Antiochus, who allowed this province to slip from his grasp without a struggle. Diodotus adopted the style and denomination of his former masters, and his immediate successors did the same. They present to us a series of portraits



never before or since equalled in beauty, life-like appearance, or strength of their execution.

About 220 B. C. Euthydemus, and later his son Demetrius, invaded India and subjugated the northwestern provinces. In Bactria they still used the Greek standard, but in India they conformed to the types of the conquered peoples by issuing square silver and copper pieces, having a Greek inscription on the obverse and an Indian one on the reverse.

During all this time the wild hordes of the Scythians had been continually pressing down from the north, until at last in 126 B. C. the Greeks were driven out of Bactria into their possessions in northern India. Here they flourished for a while, although cut off from all intercourse with the rest of the Greek world by the intervening Scyths and Parthians. Surrounded by an alien people as they were, they nevertheless struggled valiantly on for a long time, and then vanished, leaving their traces in Indian art, and above all in their coinage, the only records we have of their tragic history. The coinage of Bactria was purely Greek, as we have seen, and lasted till the death of Eucratides and the expulsion of his son Heliocles by the Scyths. From this time on the artistic merit gradually deteriorated, though the artists still retained that ability to gain a life-like portrait that characterizes these eastern Greek engravers.

Hermacus was the last king of this forgotten Hellenic civilization, and his coins clearly reveal to us his own fate and the destruction of the Greek power. Hermacus at first evidently ruled over large territories, but soon his power waned before the onslaughts of the great Scythian hordes of the Kushans, who, not content with Bactria, were now sweeping down into India. The Greek king, no longer able to hold out, made peace and called Kujula Kadphises, the Scythian leader, his ally.

In the first part of his reign Hermacus issued silver and bronze coins of considerable artistic merit, but so soon as the rude Scythians came into his kingdom his coinage at once degenerated into pieces of poor and even barbaric style bearing his own name and portrait on the obverse and on the reverse the name, in Indian, of Kujula, the confederate king of the Kushans. About 20 B. C. Hermacus died, probably at the hands of his designing and too powerful ally, and the line of the Greek kings in the east ended forever. The bronze coins now on either side give the name of Kujula Kadphises alone.



Even before this time the Seleucid empire had been pushed westward by the powerful Parthian kingdom that had risen in the time of Diodotus among the mountains to the east of the Caspian Sea, and thence had swept down and conquered the countries from Bactria and India in the east to the boundaries of Syria in the west. The Seleucid empire had waned fast and then had collapsed by internal dissension and the withering approach of mighty Rome. All the other kingdoms of Alexander's successors also fell, one after the other, victims to the Roman's lust of conquest and wealth.

Thus by the devastating sweep of the Scythians over Bactria and India, by the pushing of the Parthians towards the Mediterranean, and by the coming of the Romans into Asia, the dynasties of the successors of Alexander vanish, and with them their coinage, never since equalled in the wonderful beauty of portraiture and delineation of character, to which even the splendid series of the Roman emperors must give way.

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## What to Collect.

Coin collections are offered at auction sale for several reasons, either through the death of their owner, or because of financial reverses, but generally because the numismatist tires of his collection and of collecting.

There are pieces within the reach of every collector which, if he has any love for history or politics or art, he will not tire of. The most important of these classes of coins, etc., are ancient, mediæval and modern foreign coins, political tokens, medals, the principal types of our American coins and American Colonial coins. Coins of artistic merit will always gladden and never tire the eyes of their possessor. Dr. Burke, of this city, who collects portrait coins of historical persons says that every evening before he retires he gets out all his coins and looks at them.

### Some Historical Postage Stamps.

Written for the MONTHLY by Charles E. Jenney.

The long drawn out war between England and the Boers has many philatelic reminders. The Transvaal, or South African Republic, first issued stamps in 1870 under Dutch supervision. In 1877 England seized the country and the Dutch stamps were surcharged "V. R. (Victoria regina) Transvaal," and later Transvaal stamps appeared with the head of Victoria upon them. In 1883, however, the Dutch again held the supremacy and from that date until 1900 the Dutch republic issued its stamps, all bearing the picture of the trekking wagon of the plains.

But during the late war confusion has reigned there. From parts of the country came the Boer issues, from other parts the Dutch stamps surcharged "V. R. I." (Victoria Regina, Imperatrix) and in 1901 "E. R. I.," tokens of English occupation; while on the other hand the Dutch invasions of the English colony, Cape of Good Hope, have brought provisional Boer issues from towns there. The historic siege of Mafeking has passed into philatelic history by the issue of a set of stamps during the siege by the British defenders, bearing the surcharge "Mafeking Besieged" and one of them having the portrait of its gallant hero, Baden-Powell. These historic souvenirs are held in high esteem by the fortunate possessors and some of them have brought three figures in recent auction sales in London.

Commemorative issues have been many since 1892, when the 400th anniversary of the discovery of, and landings in America called for special issues of stamps. Not only our Columbian issue appeared at that time, but the Argentine Republic, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela celebrated the event in special sets of stamps. In 1887 the queen's jubilee set was issued in England. In 1888 New South Wales issued a set of stamps bearing the words "One hundred years," commemorative of the one-hundredth anniversary of the settling of that colony. In 1897 Canada displayed a set of stamps in honor of the sixtieth anniversary of the queen's accession and bearing portraits side by side of the queen in 1837 and the queen in 1897. Japan, at the end of its successful war with China, issued stamps with the portraits of its successful generals, quite a departure for this country, since never before had anything but the national flower, the chrys-

anthemum, been used on its stamps. In 1892 a large stamp in honor of the silver wedding of the emperor was issued, also, and in 1900 another in honor of the wedding of the crown prince. Many other countries have celebrated their own historic events in this way. Besides our own Columbian issue of 1893, the Trans-Mississippi issue of 1898 in honor of the Omaha Exposition and illustrative of the civilization of the West, and the Pan-American issue of 1901 for the Buffalo Exposition and portraying the recent innovations in rapid transit in the fast ocean liner, the express train and the automobile, might be mentioned. And a new set is in preparation in honor of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition and will probably be on sale by May 1st.

The well informed philatelist, who has read no other history than his stamps, might interest you for hours and days with the different stories his stamps tell him. Forty years ago Heligoland, Lubeck, Oldenburg, Wurtemberg, Schleswig, Bavaria, Thurn and Taxis, Hanover and Hamburg were all separate stamp-issuing countries. Today with one exception, Bavaria, they are not existent as such. All have come under the German Empire postal service, most of them years ago, but Wurtemberg only in January, 1902.

In 1900, by decree of the Czar, the Finland postal service was merged in that of Russia, and Finland postage stamps became a thing of the past. But the remonstrant Finns, seeing in this a curtailment of their liberty, issued a semi-official black stamp which they attached to their letters in addition to the required Russian stamp. This is the well-known "mourning stamp" of Finland.

Some of the impecunious Spanish American countries of South and Central America, viz. Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador, Costa Rica and Ecuador, short of funds on account of the many revolutions that harrassed them, for many years had a peculiar contract with the Hamilton Bank Note Company, of New York. This company furnished to them all the stamps they should need for postal use, a new issue being furnished each year, on the sole consideration that the company should have all the stamps left at the end of the year and the right to manufacture as many more as it pleased, for sale to collectors. These stamps which, of course, never were available for postage, are regarded by collectors with much disfavor, and are going down into history as "Seebecks," named for the President of the Bank Note Company.



The value that collectors place upon stamps has resulted in many more curious incidents. Obscure governments in out-of-the-way parts of the world—North Borneo, Central Africa, Lauban—have issued beautiful stamps, more for the purpose of luring the dollars from the pockets of collectors than for any postal necessity. A guano company issued a set of stamps for the Clipperton Islands which were promptly tabooed by collectors after discovering that the sole population of the islands consisted of a few employees imported there by the company.

A certain Baron Hardy-Hickey, whom the newspapers of a few years ago gave considerable notoriety, seized the small island of Trinidad, off the northern coast of South America, and issued a set of stamps for it, he being the entire population.

*(To be continued)*

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### Notes of Collectors.

Numismatists will welcome the news of the election of Dr. Heath as mayor of his native city, Monroe, Michigan.

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Rev. E. C. Mitchell, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has presented his very large and valuable archæological collection to the Minnesota Historical Society.

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A remarkable collector is J. B. Lewis, of Petaluma, California. His enthusiasm is as real as a boy's, and his archæological collection is large and valuable. He writes that he had his first birthday party on March 15th last, when he reached his eighty-second milestone. He is still hale and hearty, and his hearing and sight are good. The fact that his grasp on affairs is still firm is evidenced by the fact that while he lives in Petaluma, he "runs a stock and dairy ranch five miles out." While he is still a good equestrian, he says he can't quite jump into the saddle as he could at seventy-five.



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Letter from a Correspondent.

As I was sayin':

The person who starts out to make a collection of paper money with the sole object in view of getting as many "bills" as possible will doubtless find himself in the same position as the Frenchman who collected corks. If he keeps at it long enough he will have a large collection, but one that will be of no particular interest to his friends, and, I fear, of no great satisfaction to himself.

In buying old bank bills simply because they happen to be cheap, without regard to condition, a lot of stuff will be accumulated that in after years will be found difficult to dispose of when he begins to take more pride in the condition of his collection, and tries to brighten it up with better specimens.

First and foremost in my esteem are the various notes of the C. S. A.—the regular Confederate national issues, the state bills, including the "Cotton Pledged" bills of Mississippi, the Arkansas and Texas treasury warrants, the Missouri Defence Bonds, and the numerous minor notes of city, county, corporation, parish and private issues, all redeemable in C. S. A. paper, of which there is an endless array.

The poverty of the Confederacy in its declining years makes a close study of these bills interesting, the dearth of paper among other commodities necessitating the printing of a large number of these small bills on the reverse of other bills that had never been signed or put in circulation. These for the most part were printed in the opposite direction from the bills printed upon, so that when cut apart there would be no confusion, but this rule was not always strictly adhered to, as witness this small bill in my collection of the Mechanics' Savings and Loan Association for \$5.00 on one side and a Bank of St. Mary's scrip for 50 cents on the other side, both being complete, regularly signed and dated. I can imagine the feelings of the young Southerner treating his friends with his last "five," and finding it had shrunk to 50 cents when he came to liquidate. Something like the writer, when a small chap, treating one of his chums to soda with his last dime and laying down a nickel three cent piece in payment.

Another bill of this nature is an issue of the Southern Railroad Company for \$2.00, printed on the back of a defunct bond bearing across its face in large red letters

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SHARES  
ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS  
EACH,

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almost obliterating the modest little "Two Dollars." I think a near-sighted man doing business in the "shank of the evening" would be very apt to check ninety-eight dollars short in his cash the following morning on account of this oddity.

Pennsylvania has always been considered a loyal state, but I have one piece of scrip dated at Natchitochis, Pa., redeemable in C. S. A. notes—which goes to show how little a thing can place an otherwise spotless reputation in jeopardy—in this case merely the substitution of a P for an L.

The "unpleasantness between the states" was supposed to date from 1861, or the causes leading up to it a few years prior to this date. I have before me a note of Washington County, Virginia, dated at Abingdon, Va., June 15, 1682. This bill offers to pay bearer sum of 25 cents in current funds on and after the 1st day of January, 1865; in other words, 182 years, 6 months and 15 days from apparent date of issue. However, as this note did not fall into the bearer's hands until approximately 178 years after alleged date of issue, it would curtail his waiting considerably.

Another freak of the types is a note of the corporation of St. Martinsville for FIFTY CENTS. The purchasing power of this bill I am ignorant of, at a time when it took \$3,000 in C. S. A. script to buy a pair of boots. Another oddity is a 20 cent note from NORTH CAROLINA.

I could cite other cases similar to the above, but the foregoing will serve to show the poverty of resources and unsettled condition of the Southern states at a time when every one, including "I, Jacob Benner, of Mary Ann Farm," issued his own money, and everything "went" (some not a great ways, though, without a good deal of company).

A pathetic cord is touched upon in a little note for \$5.00 of the Cotton Planters' Loan Association, when they "promise to pay in gold within six months after the raising of the blockade of our coast," and Jeff Davis' famous slogan is voiced on a note of Franklin, La., by an eagle proclaiming to the world, "All we ask is to be let alone." I think a substitution of "a loan" for the final word would have been more in keeping with their finances.

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A truly Southern, or you might say "Uncle Tom's Cabin" atmosphere, pervades some of these interesting relics, such as "The Police Jury of the Parish of Pointe Coupee will pay," etc., and bills issued by the "Camperdorm Plantation," "The New Orleans and Bayou Sara Line," "The Red River Packet Co.," etc.

The foregoing will illustrate why I am particularly interested in Confederate scrip, although other lines are equally interesting if one makes a study of them, notably the French "Assignats" of 1792, during the bloodiest period of French history. Here we have francs, sols, sous, and livres. This last one of five livres I always imagine to be a due bill on the meat market, and used to see in fancy the scene when the German butcher and "Bone-apart meat together." Still, the little Corsican did not appear until three years after these were issued, and in such troublesome times it is hard to tell whether these would be worth even a boneless liver by that time.

Almost any line of bills will prove of interest if one will but "notice things," and if not, hardly any line will prove of much profit to the man with a hobby.

Iguessthat'sallfortoday.

ALGERNON DeVERE.

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### "Sun" Numismatics.

There is no question but the *Sun*, of this city, is printing more numismatic material than any other American newspaper. Mr. E. H. Adams, who conducts the numismatic column of this newspaper, is showing fine ability in his replies to correspondents, who live in all quarters of the United States. As much as three columns in the Sunday edition are given over to the subject. We again thank our newspaper friends, and it is only fair that we should voice our appreciation.

## “A Coin=ci=dent.”

*(Badly dented—almost broke.)*

By LUKE MCGLUE.

An unhappy baboon sadly gazed at the moon,  
As he sat on a juniper tree;  
And this poor little loon sang a sorrowful tune,  
In a minor and most mournful key.

“O! fair Queen of the Sky, hear a fond lover’s sigh;  
I’m in love with a sweet little maid;  
But whene’er I draw nigh she will up stakes and fly—  
Won’t you graciously lend me your aid?”

Lady Moon drawing near, dried her eye of a tear,  
Showed a face from which all joy had fled;  
Her sweet voice sounded clear through the still atmosphere,  
These being the words that she said:

“To your call I’d descend, and my aid would extend,  
But I’m helpless as helpless can be;  
My unfortunate friend, I have nothing to lend,  
For I’m on my last quarter you see.”



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